

# Conservation Connections



## St. Louis Regional Newsletter

Missouri Department of Conservation

June 2011

### Prairie in Progress

by Lia Heppermann, MDC Wildlife Biologist

Visitors to the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area will notice many fields planted with native warm season grasses and wildflowers, or forbs. This is an effort to restore, or more accurately reconstruct, the prairie once known as Howell's Prairie, which was a part of this area many years ago. It may be surprising to know that prior to European settlement more than one-third of the Missouri landscape was prairie. With settlement however, the prairie was grazed and plowed and converted to farmsteads and agriculture. Additionally, settlers began to control the fires causing the prairie to gradually give way to trees. Few examples remain today of undisturbed, unplowed remnant prairie, and those that do remain are invaluable to our natural heritage. Instead, we are often left with the

difficult prospect of restoring degraded prairie or trying to recreate prairie habitat where it once existed; both of which are poor substitutes for the real thing. Natural prairie communities are filled with a diverse array of plant and animal life which unfortunately do not respond to the "if you build it, they will come" hypothesis. Ecological restoration is more complicated than that. In spite of this, doing nothing is not an option either.

Which brings us back to the reconstruction project at Busch. Progress has been slow and there are many challenges. Currently nearly 200 acres have been planted with seed from Missouri seed suppliers. They provide seed that is native to, and grown in, Missouri and therefore adapted to the local climate and its rainfall, soils, insects, and other herbivores. Patience

is key since it takes many years before the wildflowers will bloom. During the first few years, plants are developing deep root systems to survive drought, fire and grazing which were characteristic elements of natural prairies. Controlling invasive exotic plants and implementing fire are additional challenges. Unfortunately, herbicide is necessary to control sericea lespedeza and other invasive plants. The challenge is to remove one and leave the other. Fire is implemented as often as possible to stimulate the growth and vigor of the grasses and forbs. Happily, we are making progress, and when you visit you can find pale purple coneflower, round-headed bush clover, purple prairie clover, lead plant, rattlesnake master, rosinweed, compass plant and many others blooming among the tall grasses.



For more information on prairies visit:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/landwater-care/plant-management/prairie-grassland-and-field-managment>  
or <http://www.moprairie.org>

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

June 2011

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom)

## 7 Pups on the Prairie

*Tuesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.*

(Ages 3 - 6) What do you hear? What do you see? Who is in the prairie looking at me! Join us for a prairie adventure to learn all about this wonderful habitat and the many critters that call it home. Use your senses to experience all the prairie has to offer. Be prepared to explore outside and gather just a few natural items to take home for your very own collection of "cool things." Note that certain regulations apply. (Reservations begin April 25.)

## 11 Gentle Hikes

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.*

(All Ages) If you love the outdoors and time or mobility is an issue, we've got the "hike" for you. This summer on each second Saturday of June, July, and August our naturalist will offer a short and gentle walk so you can visit a different part of Columbia Bottom each time. In June, we'll explore our prairie demonstration area in front of the visitor center. The route is flat and paved. (No reservations are required.)

## 27, 28, 29 & 30 Survivor: Day Camp!

### Forest Park & Columbia Bottom Conservation Areas

*Monday - Thursday*

*10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

(Ages 9 -13) Can you survive in the wild? Find out by testing your survival know-how at both Forest Park and Columbia Bottom! Learn a variety of skills – everything from making a shelter to creating an outdoor toilet. This is a friendly competition using teamwork to see who will be declared the ultimate survivors. Bring your enthusiasm, drive, willingness to learn, and a positive attitude along with your sunscreen and sack lunch. Day Camp is held at Columbia Bottom on days 1 and 4, Forest Park on days 2 and 3.

For information and a registration packet, call Columbia Bottom. Registration must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and received at Columbia Bottom no later than June 10 so we can confirm and plan for your child's participation. Transportation between our sites will be provided. (Registration runs May 4 through June 10.)



## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

## 8 Fishing in Forest Park

*Wednesday 10 a.m. - noon*

(Ages 7 - 10) We'll bring the line, we'll bring the pole. You'll find out there's more here than a crawdad hole! Don't miss this opportunity to learn the basics of fishing while enjoying a beautiful day in the park. This program meets at the Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Although fishing is permitted in the park with a license, the Forest Park Hatchery is not open to public fishing. Bring a water bottle and dress for the weather, rain or shine! (Reservations begin May 18.)

## 20, 21 & 22

### St. Louis City - Discovery Days

*Monday - Wednesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(St. Louis city students, ages 11 - 14) Looking for something fun and memorable to do on your summer break? Discover nature during *Forest Park Discovery Days*. Yes, you heard right, nature right here in the city. Explore fish, forests, and outdoor skills through a series of fun, educational activities, games, and crafts. You're guaranteed to leave with a new skill, interest, or appreciation of the outdoors.\*

\*Participants may sign up for one or all three classes. Reservations are limited. Once registered, parents/guardians must complete a waiver and will receive a full schedule of events. (Reservations begin May 17 and end June 8.)



# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch)

## 4 MTC Hike: Resident Birds and Other Wildlife

*Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

(Adults) Join us for an early morning, 5-mile hike at the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area. We will be looking for resident birds and other wildlife that call MTC home. Your MDC naturalist guides will provide spotting scopes to view wildlife from a distance and to observe birds active in the early morning hours. Early summer is a great time of year with comfortable temperatures to explore the marsh habitat of MTC. (Reservations begin May 20.)

## 18 Mountain Lions in Missouri and Their Natural History in North America



*Saturday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Ages 12 & up) Due to recent sightings in Missouri, there is increasing awareness and concern about mountain lions around us. Learn about and understand the natural behavior of mountain lions and what we can do to minimize interaction with humans. We'll discuss current trail camera technology and hiking safety tips that have proven effective in states where mountain lions have established reproducing populations. (Reservations begin June 3.)

## 11 Wild Edibles

*Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Adults) Add excitement to your meals with wild edibles. Learn to make jellies from wild berries and wildflowers. Taste our sample jellies to inspire future creations at your home. (Reservations begin May 27.)

## 25 Painting with the Sun

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 6 & up) Explore the outdoors and harness the sun's energy to make a unique sun catcher for your window! We will take a short hike to collect natural objects and then pair them with photo-reactive paints to create a sun catcher with wild patterns. (Reservations begin June 10.)



## Discover Nature Families: Hike for Nature & Hike for Exercise

(Families with children ages 10 & up) Summer vacation plans? Maybe a trip to the mountains, a week at the beach or even a staycation right here in Missouri? Gear up for your summer adventure by logging miles to shape up your hiking legs, break in boots, learn new skills and discover hiking trails close to home. Team up with our naturalists to learn hiking skills that will carry your family through your next adventure. Sign up for just one or all hikes below by calling the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area at 636-441-4554. (Reservations begin May 24.)

Gear Up Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at August A. Busch Memorial C.A.

June 9 & 11, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. = Lime Kiln Loop, Rockwoods Reservation - 3.2 miles

June 16 & 18, 9 a.m. - noon = Clark Trail, Weldon Spring C.A. - 5.3 miles

June 23 & 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. = Lost Valley Trail, Weldon Spring C.A. - 10.5 miles

July 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. = Green Rock Trail, Rockwoods Range & Reservation - 15 miles

Can't make our hike times or Gear Up Meeting? No worries, call 636-441-4554 and we'll send you maps of each hike with a recommended gear list for you and your family to Hike for Nature & Hike for Exercise on your own.

# Rockwoods Reservation

June 2011

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation>



## 2 Could the Emerald Ash Borer be a Threat to Native Ash Trees?

Thursday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Adults) Many beautiful ash trees offer shade to urban areas, but the emerald ash borer could be a threat to their existence. It is up to all of us to keep a close eye out for this invader. Learn what the borer looks like and what it will do to an ash tree. Learn to identify ash trees and other common urban trees. (Reservations begin May 19.)

## 11 Bluebirds!

Saturday 10 a.m. - noon

(All Ages) Learn about Missouri's state bird, the bluebird! Build a bluebird nest box to take home that will hopefully house this beautiful bird of summer. One nest box per family. Please bring a hammer and screwdriver. (Reservations begin May 27.)

## 15 Lessons from the Forest

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Families with children ages 8 & up) Name something that makes its own food, is used to create over 5,000 products, protects the environment... yet never moves. If you said "trees," you're correct! Join us to celebrate the International Year of the Forest and find out all the ways that trees are so awesome! (Reservations begin June 1.)



## Discover Nature Families: Hike for Nature & Hike for Exercise

(Families ages 10 & up) Summer vacation plans? Maybe a trip to the mountains, a week at the beach or even a staycation right here in Missouri? Gear up for your summer adventure by logging miles to shape up your hiking legs, break in boots, learn new skills and discover hiking trails close to home. Team up with our naturalists to learn hiking skills that will carry your family through your next adventure. Sign up for just one or all hikes below by calling the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area at 636-441-4554. (Reservations begin May 24.)

Gear Up Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at August A. Busch Memorial C.A.

June 9 & 11, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. = Lime Kiln Loop, Rockwoods Reservation - 3.2 miles

June 16 & 18, 9 a.m. - noon = Clark Trail, Weldon Spring C.A. - 5.3 miles

June 23 & 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. = Lost Valley Trail, Weldon Spring C.A. - 10.5 miles

July 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. = Green Rock Trail, Rockwoods Range & Reservation - 15 miles

Can't make our hike times or Gear Up Meeting? No worries, call 636-441-4554 and we'll send you maps of each hike with a recommended gear list for you and your family to Hike for Nature & Hike for Exercise on your own.



# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

June 2011

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

**For program reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch>

## 13-17 HED - Day Camp

*Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Ages 11 - 15) During this week-long camp, the students will complete the Missouri Hunter Education course. The students will be certified upon successful completion of the test. This camp will also include: .22 rifle, shotgun, archery, air-gun, muzzleloader and shotshell reloading. These activities will include indoor and outdoor sessions. Dress for the weather. Bring a lunch, drinks, insect repellent and sunscreen. (Reservations begin May 16.)



## 19 Father's Day - Fathers Shoot Free

## 25 Discover Nature Families: Archery



*Saturday 9 a.m. - noon*  
(Ages 11 & up) Are you tired of the same old family outings? Are you

looking for something new to do? How about an archery class? You and your family will be outside learning new skills in a safe and fun environment. This class is designed for families to learn the fundamentals of archery. We will cover parts of the bow, the different types of bows, stances, and techniques to get you on target. This class will be held at the Busch Shooting Range broadhead pits. (Reservations begin May 24.)



## 28, 29 Archery Day Camp

*Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m. - noon*  
(Ages 11 - 15) This 2-day program will be held at the Busch shooting range broadhead pits. We will be outside so dress for the weather and bring snacks, drinks, and insect repellent. This is an introductory class which will cover all aspects of safely and successfully shooting a bow. (Reservations begin May 28.)

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

**For program reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges>

## 4 Trigger Time - Handgun

*Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

(Ages 18 & up) Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. The instructor will observe shooting by each participant and offer suggestions on grip, stance, trigger-pull, sight alignment and the safe handling of firearms. Participants will be required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 50 rounds). (Reservations begin May 4.)

## 9 Basic Rifle

*Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

(Ages 11 & up) Learn the fundamentals of rifle shooting including gun fit, shooting positions, breath and trigger control, sight picture, sight alignment, sling use, and other techniques to make you a better rifle shooter. You may bring your own rimfire or centerfire rifle and appropriate ammunition. (Reservations begin on May 9.)

## 11 Youth .22 Handgun

*Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

(Ages 13 - 17) Join us for a youth only handgun introduction. This class will cover the parts, operation, and safe handling of revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, followed by one-on-one instruction on the range. We will provide .22 caliber handguns and ammunition; there is no need to bring your own firearm. Parents are welcome to come and observe. (Reservations begin May 11.)

## 13 - 17 Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

*Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Ages 11 - 15) Our annual Youth Hunter Education day camp incorporates the Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course as well as shooting activities and other hunting related skills. A birth certificate is required for age verification. Bring your lunch Monday through Thursday. We will end camp with a pizza party on Friday. Camp is limited to 30 participants. (Reservations begin May 13.)

## 19 Father's Day - Fathers Shoot Free

## 22 Metallic Cartridge Reloading Made Easy

*Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

(Ages 11 & up) Since factory rifle ammunition may cost \$35 or more per box, it is worth the time and effort to learn how to reload your own rifle ammunition. We will demonstrate the low cost basic equipment needed for reloading rifle cartridges, and the simple methods of producing quality, accurate ammunition. (Reservations begin May 22.)

## 23 & 25 Basic Handgun

*Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.*

*Saturday 8 - 9:30 a.m.*

(Ages 16 & up) This two-part program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations begin May 23.)

## 25 Basic Shotgun

*Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

(Ages 12 & up) This is an introductory program for beginning shotgunners. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. (Reservations begin May 25.)

## 27 - 29 Youth Trap Camp

*Monday - Wednesday*

*9:00 a.m. - Noon.*

(Ages 11 - 17) This three-morning camp is based on the game of competitive trap shooting. Participants will learn fundamentals of 16-yard singles trap shooting. This camp is appropriate for participants who can physically shoot at least 100 targets per day. (Reservations begin May 27.)

# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

**Building hours:** Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

**Area and trails:** Open seven days a week 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

## 4 Leaf and Tree Identification

*Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 16 & up) Join us in this International Year of Forests, as we learn the basic structures of leaves and how this applies to tree identification. We will then use our new knowledge to identify several of the trees out on the trail. (Reservations begin May 20.)



## 7 Mystery Munchers

*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.*

(Ages 4 & up) Here is a mystery: What wild muncher is a “vegetarian”? What typically lives longer as a “child” than as an adult? What gets bigger than its “skin”? Want a hint? Its life cycle gets people thinking about complete change and total transformation. Here’s another hint: Scientists call it a “larval lepidopteran.” Ready for the answer? Yes, you’re right, it’s a caterpillar! Join us for stories, songs, and crafts celebrating these “mystery munchers”. (Reservations begin May 24.)

## 10 Discover Nature Families: Creek Crawl



*Friday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 6 & up) What lives in a creek and what makes a creek healthy? Let’s find out by poking around the creek at Powder Valley in search of aquatic insects and other invertebrates. Please dress for the weather, and wear/bring shoes appropriate for walking through ankle deep water and for hiking on Hickory Ridge Trail. (Reservations begin May 27.)

## 29 Nature’s Niche: It’s an Indoor Pond Study!

*Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 50 & up) What’s growing at the pond? You don’t have to walk a long distance to find the answer to this question at Powder Valley! We will focus on amphibians and macro-invertebrates through discussion and hands-on exploration within the classroom. Come experience an informative and engaging program! (Reservations begin June 15.)

## 21 Getting Antsy

*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 4 & up) If you watch carefully outside, the first animal you see will probably be an ant. Ants are everywhere, but how much do we know about their lives? Learn about these social insects and their life styles. Weather permitting, this program will include an outdoor walk to see Powder Valley’s biggest colony of ants. (Reservations begin June 7.)

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### Volunteer Milestones

John Sanders	400 hours
Shirley Fitzgibbons	500 hours
Richard Guelker	1250 hours

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*June Hallway Exhibit*

*Alex Forster, Photographer*

Alex Forster, native to St. Louis, was born and raised on a farm setting in Creve Coeur, Missouri. He has served his country as a Sgt. in the Air Force and is a Vietnam vet. He has always had a great appreciation and love for nature and wildlife. Through his photography, Alex displays a special ability to see and capture “Life” in unique and insightful ways, and shares these perspectives with his viewers. His photography showcases the awe and wonder of God’s creations.

Alex’s photography has been displayed at special showings at an art gallery in Clayton, Missouri. Additionally, his work has been presented at various art shows and displays, and at the Missouri Conservation Center in Cape Girardeau. Alex’s work has been recognized and published twice internationally.



**Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center**  
**For reservations call (314) 301-1500**

June 2011

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with five days notice. From I-44 take Lindbergh (Route 61/67) to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road to Cragwold Road then one mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder)



## Get Your Child Outside! Weekend

*The “Where” and “How-To” for Your Family*

### **MOTHER NATURE’S CHILD**

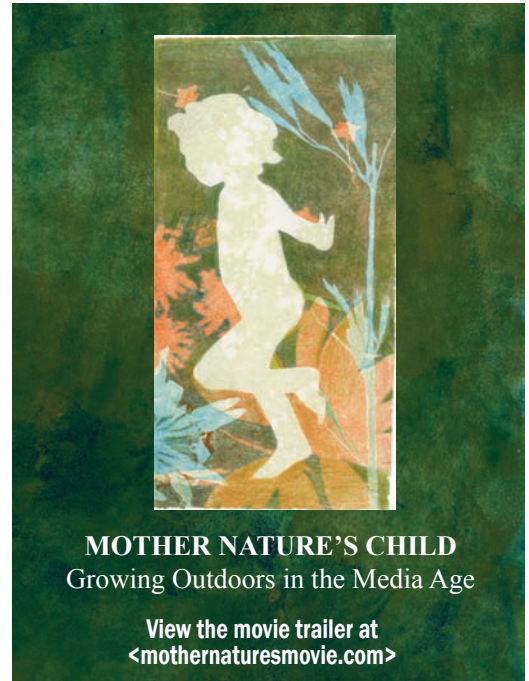
Film Premiere and Reception

Friday, June 24

7 - 9 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) From filmmaker Camilla Rockwell and co-director Wendy Conquest comes a new documentary film, *Mother Nature’s Child: Growing Outdoors in the Media Age*. For thousands of years human beings evolved in the natural world, and until only a generation ago, our children played freely outdoors. In a single generation, contemporary culture has undergone drastic change, forcing children indoors, where, increasingly, they exhibit symptoms of “nature deficit”: obesity, depression, and attention disorders. *Mother Nature’s Child* explores the essential ways nature experience promotes children’s well-being, contributes to the future of the planet, and nourishes the human spirit.\*

Camilla Rockwell will introduce the film and after the premiere will stay for a short reception. (Please call for reservations.)



### **GET YOUR CHILD OUTSIDE!**

Where Can You Go and What Can You Do?

Saturday, June 25

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Parents, grandparents, youth leaders, and teachers, bring your family or group to learn about local opportunities to get the children in your life to enjoy and explore the outdoors. Learn about nature play without high tech equipment and expensive gear. Various organizations will be represented and example activities will be ongoing. Encore showings of the movie, *Mother Nature’s Child*, will be running on the hour in the auditorium. (No reservations required.)



*For 20 years, Powder Valley has been working to help families discover and connect with nature. Please, help us celebrate by attending more special programs to commemorate this special occasion!*



\*This film premiere ties in with Governor Jay Nixon’s Children In Nature Challenge, a program designed to recognize communities and families who create opportunities for their children to get outside and discover nature firsthand. Visit [<childreninnature.mo.gov>](http://childreninnature.mo.gov) to learn more about the Governor’s challenge.